

which had long relied on other jurisdictions for this important undertaking. Township supervisors decided that the company would rely solely on fundraising and other sources of income rather than on taxpayer dollars, a decision which still stands to this day.

Today, Northmoreland Township Volunteer Fire Company has over 70 members, including more than 40 volunteers who actively respond to calls. The additional members are responsible for important functions including fundraising, accounting, and other day to day business operations. Since its founding, the company has been active in updating their equipment and training procedures to ensure they are leaders in fire protection. The members of this company continue to risk their own lives to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents of Northmoreland Township.

Mr. Speaker, since 1981 members of the Northmoreland Township Volunteer Fire Company have proudly protected their community from fire and other disasters. Therefore, I commend all those personnel who have faithfully served at this fire house and congratulate them on the dedication of their newest building addition and acquisition of a new ladder truck.

REMEMBERING MR. MAURICE LYONS

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Maurice Lyons, who passed away October 16, 2013. Mr. Lyons has left those living in the Morongo Basin with a legacy of public service and dedication to community.

Mr. Lyons became well known throughout the Morongo Basin during his 15 years of leadership as chairman of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians. Raised on the Morongo Reservation as one of nine children, Lyons entered public service in 1994 as a tribal housing commissioner and chairman of the Morongo Head Start parents committee. Soon after he was elected to the Morongo Tribal Council and was elected Tribal Chairman in 2001, serving a total of three terms.

In addition to his leadership on the Tribal Council, Mr. Lyons established himself as a community leader through his role in developing the Morongo School, a college preparatory academy that opened on the reservation in 2010.

In addition he served as president of the board of directors for National Indian Child Welfare Association and spearheaded a national drive that raised more than \$500,000 toward the cost to build a National American Indian Veterans monument at Riverside National Cemetery.

Today, I join with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and with the entire Morongo Basin in remembering this extraordinary public leader who served as an inspiration to all those who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO PARAMESHWARAN "RAVI" RAVISHANKER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Perris, California and greater Riverside County are exceptional. Riverside County has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Parameswaran "Ravi" Ravishanker is one of these individuals. This year, Mr. Ravishanker will end his tenure as the Deputy General Manager of the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) after over 20 years of service.

Under his guidance as Assistant General Manager and Deputy General Manager, Mr. Ravishanker has helped EMWD become an industry leader in water and wastewater management. He is responsible for having helped EMWD reach a historic water rights settlement with the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, which was signed into law by the President of the United States on July 31, 2008. This settlement has resulted in the recharging of an overdrawn groundwater basin, helping to secure water reliability in the region for future generations.

Mr. Ravishanker has been instrumental in the surface and groundwater basin plans for the Santa Ana Watershed and San Jacinto Watershed, which have a combined population of just fewer than five million people. He helped initiate the implementation of three groundwater desalination facilities, a multipurpose wetlands facility and five wastewater treatment facilities. In addition, Mr. Ravishanker helped develop a water resources management plan that helped maximize state and federal funding opportunities, resulting in a more sustainable water supply portfolio for the District.

Mr. Ravishanker previously served as a United Nations Consultant and the Deputy General Manager of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. He has dedicated his career to the water industry and has always worked with a commitment to resource and environmental sustainability.

In light of all Mr. Ravishanker has done for the city of Perris and the greater community, it is only fitting that he be honored for his many years of dedicated service. Mr. Ravishanker's tireless passion for the industry in which he serves has contributed immensely to the betterment of Riverside County and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I commend Mr. Ravishanker for his tireless work with the Eastern Municipal Water District. I know that many are grateful for his service and salute him as he prepares to end his tenure later this year.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF "BLACK HAWK DOWN"

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the veterans of the battle in Mogadishu, Somalia on October 3rd, 1993—commonly referred to now as "Black Hawk Down"—gathered at two different events in Fort Bragg, North Carolina and in Texas at the ranch of Ross Perot, Jr., to observe the 20th anniversary of these events and remember the 18 servicemen who were killed in action.

I submit for the RECORD a statement I received from Lt. Gen. William G. "Jerry" Boykin who was the commander of Delta Force during this battle, which took the lives of 18 men and wounded 73 others.

As Lt. Gen. Boykin notes in the statement, "What came next was hours of fighting between ninety-nine Americans and tens of thousands of the Somali militia, all armed with rifles, grenades, and rocket propelled grenades (RPG) and determined to kill as many Americans as possible. The battle was now a matter of principle. No American would be left behind. It made no difference that the two pilots were already dead, their bodies would be brought out and returned home with dignity. No man was willing to leave his comrade's body because each man lived by an ethos known as the 'Ranger Creed', which says in the fifth stanza 'I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy . . .'"

BLACK HAWK DOWN TWENTY YEARS LATER

(By Lt. Gen. William G. "Jerry" Boykin)

October 3rd, 1993 was a day when "Uncommon valor was a common virtue," according to John O. Marsh, Jr., the former Secretary of the United States Army. Known to his friends as Jack, Marsh was speaking at a memorial service at the Delta Force facilities at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in November, 1993, just days after the unit had returned from Mogadishu, Somalia, where sixteen of their comrades had died and another 72 had suffered wounds. The battle that Marsh was referring to was later chronicled in the Ridley Scott and Jerry Bruckheimer movie "Black Hawk Down." Last week two key commemoratives occurred in different places which drew the participants of that battle together to honor their fallen comrades. The first was at Ft Bragg, NC on October 3rd where Rangers, Delta Force personnel, aviators from the 1/60th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and a small number of US Navy and US Air Force warriors gathered on the twentieth anniversary. On the 5th of October, many of the same group, along with family members, attended an event sponsored by Ross Perot Jr at his ranch in Grapevine Texas. Both events were characterized by solemn camaraderie and stories of old team mates who never made it home from that battle. Jack Marsh was right about the valor shown that day in the most intense firefight that US troops had been in since the Viet Nam conflict.

One of the somewhat obscure facts about the "Blackhawk Down" battle is what those men were fighting for. The mission that day was to capture three Somali militiamen who were part of the network of a brutal tribal leader named Mohammad Aidede. That mission was accomplished fairly quickly and the task force was preparing to return to their base when a Blackhawk helicopter, call sign

Super 61, was shot down in the vicinity of the Bakkarra market. The pilot and co-pilot were killed on impact and trapped in the twisted wreckage. Two other crew members survived the crash along with three of the Delta Force operators, all of which were injured. Every man from the task force was directed to leave their targets and to get to the crash site and to recover the bodies of the dead crewmembers and protect the survivors until they could be evacuated. Some of the injured survivors were evacuated fairly quickly by the quick reactions of courageous helicopter pilots who saw the situation and reacted instantly. After a very tough block-by-block street fight, the task force finally assembled around the crash, only to discover that the bodies of their comrades were hopelessly entangled in the wreckage and would be nearly impossible to remove without tools, which the task force did not have. What came next was hours of fighting between ninety-nine Americans and tens of thousands of the Somali militia, all armed with rifles, grenades, and rocket propelled grenades (RPG) and determined to kill as many Americans as possible. The battle was now a matter of principle. No American would be left behind. It made no difference that the two pilots were already dead, their bodies would be brought out and returned home with dignity. No man was willing to leave his comrade's body because each man lived by an ethos known as the "Ranger Creed", which says in the fifth stanza "I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy . . ." So the die was cast and it quickly became obvious to all the Americans in Mogadishu that until the necessary tools arrived that would allow the task force to rip the helicopter apart, the battle would continue; and it did, for eighteen hours. Additional casualties were taken by the task force as they stayed and defended the bodies of Cliff Walcott and Donovan Briley. It was not until just before daylight on October 4th that a relief force carrying the necessary equipment was able to reach the surrounded Americans and extract the two bodies. At that point, the entire force fought their way out of the city and back to their base on the airfield in Mogadishu.

While the cost was high, every man knew that he had done what was expected of him and had no regrets. Fighting and sacrificing for a fellow warrior is fundamental to the warrior ethos. These men battled against incredible odds to defend fallen comrades and did so without hesitation or reservation. Honor was preserved but at a price. Given the same dilemma again, it is a sure bet that every man would do the same thing. That is one of the things that makes a man a warrior and America is blessed to have people that know that there are some values for which they will risk everything, including their lives.

HONORING JAY DOUGLAS WEEKS
OF LEBANON TOWNSHIP, NEW
JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Honorable Jay Douglas Weeks of Lebanon Township, New Jersey. Jay leaves a long legacy of courage, honor and distinguished public service.

Jay started his life of service by volunteering for the Marines. He was taught to fly and ex-

celled in combat maneuvering and navigation. He mastered fighter jets and bravely served on many important missions. In his professional life, Jay crafted his love of the skies as a pilot for United Airlines.

Jay continued his dedicated public service on the Lebanon Township Committee. There he had a long and accomplished tenure, including serving many terms as Mayor. He also volunteered his time with organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Elks and the Free Masons. He was also a lifelong sportsman and outdoorsman. Jay was a wonderful husband to Matilda and a beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather. Jay's devotion to others and his love of life will be sorely missed.

HONORING MS. CANDICE DAVIS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Candice Davis of Jackson, Missouri for her outstanding achievements and service to our nation. Ms. Davis served in the United States Navy for nine years as a journalist and public affairs officer. Stationed abroad in Sicily, Bosnia, and Kosovo, she was a news anchor, radio host, and television travel show host. She then spent time in Jacksonville, Florida before reaching her final duty station in Denver, Colorado at the Navy Recruiting District. In this position, Ms. Davis excelled in marketing the Navy to the region and expanding recruitment efforts. She spearheaded efforts to get recruiters more involved in charity and community work.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Ms. Davis completed her education at Southeast Missouri State University, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She now works as a media specialist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, encouraging the community to discover the power of nature. She believes that those who participate in outdoor recreation experience less stress and are more confident and that individuals can truly go on to be anything they want to be. This is the message Ms. Davis imparts to interns in her office, in addition to sharing her military stories. I thank Ms. Davis for her service to our nation and I am impressed by her continued work to better our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF ASSUMPTION
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Assumption Catholic School on its 50th Anniversary. Since 1963, Assumption Catholic School has been providing outstanding Catholic education to Perth Amboy and the surrounding communities.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary began plans to establish a parochial school after encouragement by

then Archbishop Metropolitan Constantine Bohachevsky. Construction began in 1960 and the school was opened in 1963. In 2007, its name was changed from Ukrainian Assumption School to Assumption Catholic School.

Since its establishment, Assumption Catholic School has grown considerably. Its first class in 1963 consisted of 25 first and second grade students. Each successive year, a grade level was added to the school and by 1969 the school encompassed kindergarten through eighth grade. A pre-kindergarten program was added in 2002. Nearly 800 students in 44 classes have graduated from Assumption Catholic School since 1970.

Assumption Catholic School has been led by four principals since 1963—Sister Josepha, Sister Vladimyra, Melanie Lawrence and Michael Szpyhulsky. Sister Josepha and Mrs. Lawrence also taught at the school. Under the leadership of each of these principals, Assumption Catholic School saw continued growth, expansion and technological upgrades. In addition to the dedicated leadership, faculty and staff of the school, Assumption Catholic School is also supported by the Ukrainian Assumption parish and the students' parents who are very active in school activities and benefits.

In 1996, Assumption Catholic School became the first Catholic school in Perth Amboy to receive Middle States Accreditation.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Assumption Catholic School. Its educational excellence is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

CONGRATULATING THE KAYNE
ANDERSON CAPITAL ADVISORS
FOUNDATION

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of the Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors Foundation, who will be honored with the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation's General Roger L. Brautigan Leadership Award for their unparalleled commitment to the needs of veterans in Ventura County.

Founded in 2011, Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors Foundation supports numerous organizations that aim to empower and enrich the lives of individuals and community. The Foundation's model of generosity and compassion reflects a new culture of giving that encourages their employees to increase their individual contributions and participation in charitable activities.

Through the support of the Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors Foundation, the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation can continue to provide essential services and funding to countless projects including housing coalitions, courts, memorials and activities that all serve the same mission to better the lives of all veterans and their families in California's central coast.

No one embodies the spirit of this generosity more than Gary Ghazarian, partner at Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors. As a Board Member of the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation, Gary has personified the true meaning of philanthropy and has been a stellar example